

NOTES ON A SMALL COLLECTION OF MAMMALS FROM THE TANA
RIVER, EAST AFRICA, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES.

BY

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Mr. William Astor Chanler and Lient. von Höhnelt have recently sent to the Museum, among other East African collections, a small number of mammals. These were collected on the Tana River, between the coast and Hamaye, a point about 300 miles from its mouth. Included among them is a new species of dormouse, *Eliomys*, which I propose to name *Eliomys parvus*. Its characters are as follows:

Eliomys parvus sp. nov.

Size small. Ears short, rounded, sparsely clothed with short, brownish hairs; the skin of the margin dusky.

Color above buff, tinged with brown. The hairs of the back are blackish in the basal half, then ringed with buff and tipped with brown. Muzzle lighter than the head, the short hairs being mostly without dark tips. A dusky line extends from the nostrils to the eyes, and a ring of dark color surrounds the latter. Cheeks (to the base of the ears), lips, chin, and throat clothed with hairs which are white to the base. The remainder of the under surfaces yellowish white, the hairs gray in the lower half. Feet white. Tail pale reddish chocolate-brown, washed with white, especially on the under side. Hairs of the tail short at its base, growing gradually longer distally, and attaining a length of 19^{mm} at the tip. The hairs are equally long on the median line and the sides of the tail, and hence there is no trace of a distichous arrangement.

Dimensions of body in millimeters.

	Cat. No. 33025 ♀
Length of head and body	80.0
Length of tail vertebrae	69.0
Length of terminal hairs of tail.....	19.0
Length of hind foot, with claw.....	13.5
Height of ear from base of outer margin	9.0

Dimensions of skull in millimeters.

	Cat. No. 33025 ♀
Basi-cranial length (anterior margin of foramen magnum to posterior base of incisors).....	18.0
End of palate to posterior base of incisors	7.3
Length of nasals.....	8.0
Greatest zygomatic breadth.....	13.0
Upper premolar to posterior base of incisors.....	5.0
Length of upper molar series.....	2.8

This diminutive species closely resembles *E. kelleni* Reuvens, but appears to be slightly larger, with proportionately shorter tail. The ears are decidedly shorter. In *E. kelleni* all the hairs of the under surfaces are gray at the base, while in *E. parvus* those of the cheeks, chin, and neck are white throughout. The ears have a dark margin in the latter species, but in *E. kelleni* the hairs of the margin are white. The end of the tail is mostly white in *E. kelleni*, but not in *E. parvus*.

The type specimen of *E. parvus*, No. 21005, herein described, is a female. It was received in alcohol and afterwards made up as a dry skin. It was not accompanied by a label indicating the exact point on the Tana River where it was obtained.

The collection also contains two species of bats, belonging to the genera *Vesperugo* and *Nycteris*.

***Vesperugo (Vesperus) rendalli* Thomas.**

There is a single specimen of this species, which was described by Mr. Thomas in 1889, from Bathurst, on the river Gambia.* It is a female of smaller size than the typical male specimen. Its dimensions are as follows, in millimeters:

	Cat. No. 21007 ♀
Head and body	41.5
Tail	33.5
Forearm	31.5
Head	15.0
Muzzle to eye	5.8
Ear, from base of outer margin to tip	12.0
Thumb, with claw	4.5
Lower leg	11.5

***Nycteris hispida* (Schreber).**

Five specimens of this bat were collected, which differ in no way from those originally described. There are three males and two females.

Of mice, the collection contains but one species, which is allied to *Mus musculus*, and appears to be undescribed. Its characters are as follows:

***Mus tana* sp. nov.**

Size larger than *Mus musculus*. Tail about one-fifth longer than the head and body, terete, scaly; with sparse hairs, which do not conceal the scales. Ears thin and rounded, rather sparsely clothed with short, stiff hairs. These are white on the margin of the ears and brown elsewhere.

General color brownish-gray above, hoary below; feet white. Fur soft, without spines.

Hairs of the back of two kinds, namely, long hairs, gray at the base and black distally, and shorter hairs, gray at the base, with a sub-

*Ann. and Mag. N. H., 6th ser., III, p. 362.

terminal ring of buff and a black tip. Both black and buff become gradually less conspicuous on the sides and fade into the white of the belly. Hairs of the belly gray at the base and white at the tip; on the throat they are entirely white. Fore and hind feet entirely white, the hairs longer than is usual in this group; those at the extremity of the toes extending beyond the claws, but not concealing them. Claws white. Soles naked, purplish-brown (in alcohol), including the tubercles, which are pitted and not striated. Scales of the tail, both above and below, dark brown; the hairs of the upper side dark brown, of the under side white.

Skull exactly comparable to that of *Mus musculus*, except in size. Teeth similar, but the anterior tubercles of the first lower molar when worn form a quatrefoil instead of a trefoil. Posterior lower molar triangular, the apex directly backward.

*Dimensions of the body in millimeters.**

	Cat. No. 33005 ♀
Length of head and body.....	77.0
Length of tail vertebrae.....	93.0
Length of ear from lower margin of orifice to tip.....	16.5
Length of hind foot, with claw	23.0

Dimensions of the skull in millimeters.

	Cat. No. 36005 21004
Basi-cranial length, from foramen magnum to posterior base of incisors.....	21.5
End of palate to posterior base of incisors.....	12.0
Length of upper molars.....	4.6
Length of nasals	11.0
Greatest zygomatic breadth.....	14.0
Length of lower molars.....	4.4

The type specimen, No. 21004, female, was received in alcohol. After being measured, it was made up as a dry skin. The exact locality on the Tana River in which it was obtained was not indicated.

Accompanying Mr. Chanler's collection was an immature specimen of *Nannomys*, apparently *N. minimus*, collected at Wange on Manda Island, north of Lama, by Mr. Gustav Denkhardt.

* From the alcoholic specimen before skinning.